

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:



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1. A method for centrally managing plural network clients interfaced with a network host, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating a login script at a network client, the login script calling a login routine associated with the network host that operationally manages the configuration of the network client;

installing a start-up routine with the login routine, the start-up routine associated with the network client;

using a start-up routine to determine the operating system of the network client; and

managing the start-up of the network client with the start-up routine according to the operating system of the network client.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the managing the start-up step further comprises the steps of:

directing the network client to install predetermined local utilities; and

directing the network client to load predetermined network utilities.

3. The method according to Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

initiating a login routine with the login script; and

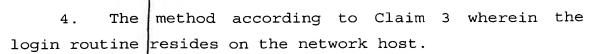
30 using the login routine to initiate the start-up routine on the network client.

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- 5. The / method according to Claim 3 wherein the start-up routine resides on the network client.
- 6. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the operating system comprises one of either Windows NT or Windows 95.
- The method according to Claim 2 wherein the 7. routine installs the predetermined start-up utilities according to launch manager values.
- The method according to Claim 7 further 8. comprising the step of setting launch manager values with a launch mahager.

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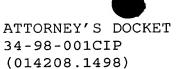
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A method for centrally managing plural network clients interfaced with a network host, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating a login script at a network client;

automatically calling a login routine, the login routine operationally managing the configuration of the network client;

using the login routine to install a start-up routine on the network client; and

automatically calling the start-up routine, start-up routine operationally managing the start-up of the network dlient.

The method according to Claim 9 wherein the 10. start-up routine manages the start-up of the network client by performing a method comprising the steps of:

client to install directing the network predetermined local utilities; and

directing the network client to load predetermined network utilities. 20

The method according to Claim 10 wherein the login routine manages the configuration of the network client by performing a method comprising the steps of:

gathering system information;

creating standard directories;

determining the operating system of the network client;

installing default applications; and establishing a desktop configuration.

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- The method according to Claim 11 wherein the establishing a desktop configuration step comprises the step of installing the launch manager.
- The method according to Claim 12 wherein the login routine resides on the network server.
- The method according to Claim 12 wherein the launch manager resides on the network client.
- 15. The method according to Claim 12 wherein at least one network client has a Windows 95 operating system.
- The method according to Claim 15 wherein at least one network client has a Windows NT operating system.

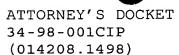
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17. A system for central management of plural network clients interfaced with a network host, each network client having an operating system, the system comprising:

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a start-up routine associated with each network client, the start-up routine operational to determine the network client operating system, and to direct network clients to install predetermined local utilities, the start-up routine further operational to direct network clients to load predetermined network utilities; and

a login routine associated with each network client, the login routine operational to install the start-up routine, to determine the network client operating system, and to direct network clients to establish a desktop configuration.

- 18. The system according to Claim 17 wherein the network comprises a local area network.
- 19. The system according to Claim 17 wherein the network comprises a wide area network.
- The system according to Claim 17 further comprising a launch manager associated with each network client, the launch manager operational to define the local utilities installed on each network client by the start-up routine.



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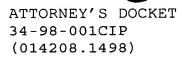
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21. The system according to Claim 17 wherein each network client has an operating system, and wherein at least one network client has a Windows 95 operating system and at least one network client has a Windows NT operating system.



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22. A method for establishing the configuration of network workstations, the method comprising:

initiating login of one or more workstations to the network;

loading a start-up routine to the one or more workstations, the start-up routine having instructions for workstation configuration;

initiating operation of the start-up routine instructions with a message sent over the network to the one or more workstations; and

configuring the workstation according to the startup routine instructions.

23. The method of Claim 22 further comprising:

determining an exception to the start-up routine instructions for a predetermined workstation; and

preventing the initiation of start-up routine instructions associated with the exception.

- 24. The method of Claim 23 wherein preventing the initiation of instructions further comprises sending a message over the network to the predetermined workstation to identify start-up routine instructions.
- 25. The method of Claim 22 further comprising:

  executing the start-up routine instructions on the workstation to initiate a pulse tool on the workstation; and
- monitoring a network queue with the pulse tool to determine actions for the workstation.

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- 26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the start-up routine instructions comprise the pulse tool.
- 27. The method of Claim 22 wherein the configuration comprises an application, the application loaded with the start-up routine, the method further comprising:

sending a message to the workstation over the network to approve or defer installation of the application; and

deferring installation of the application if an approval message is not returned by the workstation.

28. The method of Claim 27 further comprising:

sending one or more additional messages to the workstation over the network to approve or defer installation of the application;

tracking the number of deferrals of the installation; and

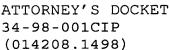
sending a message to the workstation to initiate installation of the application without approval after a tracking a predetermined number of deferrals.



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29. A system for configuration of workstations associated with a network, the system comprising:

a login tool that receives login requests from the workstations; and

a start-up tool called by the login tool upon receipt of a login request, the start-up tool providing configuration instructions to the workstation making the login request;

wherein a message sent through the network to the workstation initiates the configuration instructions.

- 30. The system of Claim 29 wherein the configuration instructions comprise predetermined desktop icons.
- 31. The system of Claim 29 wherein the configuration instructions comprise an application, the message initiating installation of the application.
- Claim 29 wherein the 20 32. The system of configuration instructions comprise a pulse tool, monitoring tool network queue pulse for a predetermined schedule to provide emergency management of the workstation based on instructions received in the 25 queue.
  - 33. The system of Claim 32 further comprising a user message tool associated with the pulse tool, the user message tool for disseminating information associated with emergency management detected by the pulse tool.

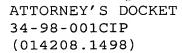
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- The system of Claim 29 further comprising:
- a text tool operational to identify workstation exceptions, the text tool preventing configuration initiation of predetermined configuration instructions by a workstation.
  - The system of Claim 29 further comprising:
- an information tool associated with the network, the tool for disseminating information to information workstations, the information tool sending a message to one or workstations to display information based on instructions stored on the workstation by the start-up tool.
- The system of Claim 35 wherein the displayed 15 information comprises information displayed through a browser.
- The system of Claim 36 wherein the displayed 20 information comprises a sample screen shot οf an installed application.
  - The system of Claim 36 wherein the displayed information comprise a hot link to an intranet site.

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